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TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 2017 09:06

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BBC BRASIL

'My son was killed by prejudice', says mother of transvestite beaten in Ceará

BBC / Brazil



Dandara dos Santos, 42, was killed beaten in recorded aggression in Ceará

THAYS LAVOR
OF THE BBC BRAZIL

03/03/2017 10h08

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The tragic death of Ceará's Dandara dos Santos, 42, beaten in Fortaleza's street on February 15 and shot dead, once again exposed the situation of vulnerability faced by transvestites in a country where NGOs, Authorities have been absent in cases of homophobia.

The brutal crime was filmed, showing the transvestite seated on the floor, receiving kicks and punches, between curses, by at least four people. The video has viralized, with tens of thousands of shares on YouTube.

In 2016, 144 transvestites were murdered in the country, according to the Gay Group of Bahia. This year, which is only in its third month, they are already

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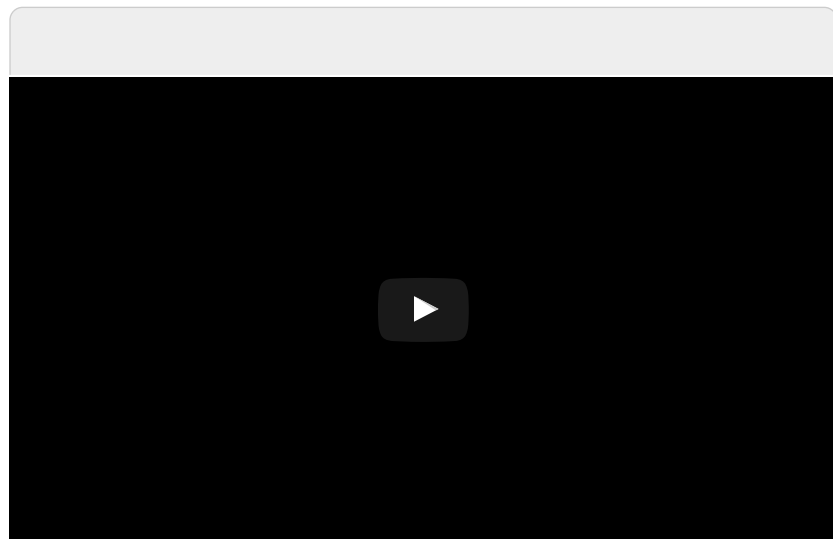
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23. To repudiate the violence against Dandara and collect effective responses from the State in the fight against homophobia in Ceará, LGBT groups have called for this Friday the act "Against Barbarism Transfóbica" To the Abolition Palace, headquarters of the State Government in Fortaleza.

According to neighbors and people who knew her, Dandara distributed smiles wherever she went and made a living selling used clothes, as well as helping her mother with housework.

"She would wake up early, at 5 o'clock she was already up and at 6 o'clock the coffee was already on the table. My son was loved wherever he went. Everyone on the street played with him, the boys, the bakery girls, everybody", Says his mother, Francisca Ferreira de Vasconcelos, 74.

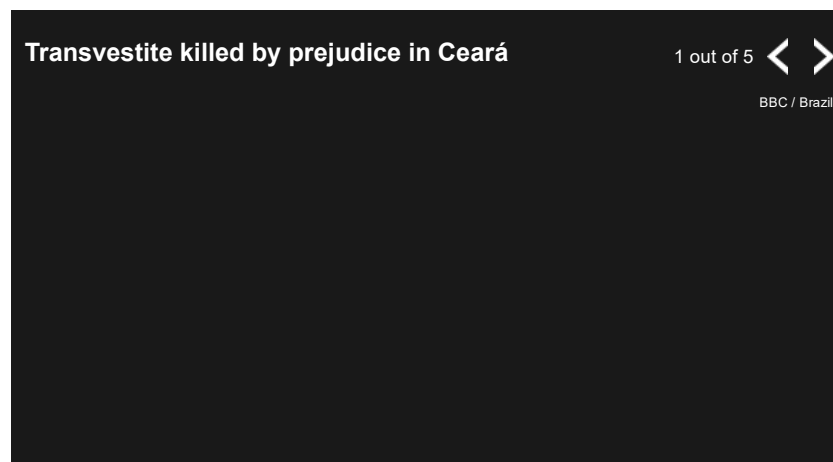


Although the Ceará Military Police has already arrested seven people involved in the crime, the performance of the PM-CE was criticized for the delay in taking action. The arrests were made only two days after the video was released and 18 days after Dandara's death.

The family mourns not only for the loss of their loved one, but also because Dandara has been a victim of intolerance. "My son (Dandara) had no enemies, he was killed by prejudice, because he was a transvestite, he used to be humiliated, and now I ask, what's the problem?"

For NGOs working with the LGBT population, many cases of transvestite or transsexual murders motivated by hatred and prejudice remain unpunished.

According to the Gay Group of Bahia, they are the second most affected group among fatal victims of homophobic attacks in 2016. Of the 343 murders of LGBT people, 173 were gay (50%), 144 (42%) trans (transvestites and transsexuals) 10 lesbians (3%), 4 bisexuals (1%), and 12 heterosexuals also in homophobic crimes - they were lovers of transsexuals, called "T-lovers".



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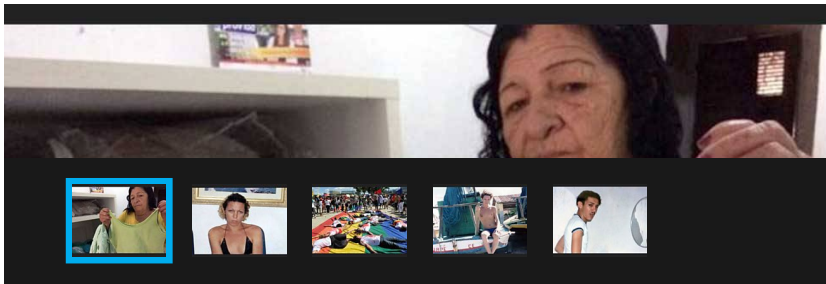
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NUMBERS IN LACK

It is impossible to know how many transsexuals and transvestites were killed in the country, in a search made in the data of the public security departments. Occurrence bulletins do not generate indicators based on gender identity and sexual orientation.

The name of Dandara, for example, appears in the daily report of Violent Intentional Lethal Crimes (CVLI) of the Secretariat of Public Security and Social Defense of the State of Ceará (SSPDS) as Antônio Cleilson Ferreira Vasconcelos, his birth registration name. In the space destined to the type of weapon used in the crime, only "others" are written.

For the Asa Branca Resistance Group (Grab), based in Fortaleza, the lack of official statistics would be proof of the government's absence in the fight against homophobia.

"If there is no data, it is because we do not exist for them, we are ignored. However, there are a number of murders, collective attacks on transvestites, transsexuals, gays and lesbians, culminating in cruel crimes, which mostly have characteristics that A course of torture, until execution, "says Dário Bezerra, representative of the group.

According to Carlos Eduardo Bezerra, professor and researcher at the Center for Gender and Sexuality Policy (NPGS) at the University of International Integration of Afro-Brazilian Lusophony (Unilab), the absence of a discussion on gender and human rights contributes to this type of violence.

"There is no justification for these crimes, but the absence of effective public policies (education, health, employment, leisure) aimed at guaranteeing the dignity and protection of LGBT people, especially those most vulnerable, the absence of a discussion on human rights, gender and identity Of gender in schools and spaces of formation, the advance of fundamentalist discourse, contribute to these types of crimes, "analyzes the researcher.

OMISSION

Dandara's brother, Ricardo Vasconcelos, 39, points not only to prejudice and intolerance as the cause of Dandara's death, but also to the slowness of the police to intervene in the murderers' actions. He says that calls were made to emergency number 190 during the beating of his sister, however, the PM-CE only arrived at the place after the death.

"We are going to file a lawsuit against the state, they were omitted and that omission killed my brother. We have evidence, the people in the neighborhood where he died said he called the police and the police only came to isolate the body, and I think it's because they said they would burn it if PM did not arrive, "says Ricardo.

The Secretary of Public Security of Ceará, André Costa, said that the vehicle that was closest to the place was not sent because he was attending to an occurrence. But after a second call, another car was directed to the location.

"In reality, what we have is that the demand is great for the vehicles that are on the streets, but we are working to put more vehicles on the streets," explained Costa.

Asked about a possible omission of the PM-CE in relation to the Dandara massacre, the DPGE, through the Human Rights Nucleus, reported that, to date, no complaint has reached the defense. But if any omission has occurred, it will be investigated by DPGE.

The state prosecutor's office said he expected the guilty parties to be promptly prosecuted and to be held accountable for their actions. ★★

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Herbert Luiz Braga Ferreira (10/03/2017 18h56) 10 days ago 3 1 [Report](#) TO SHARE



Faced with such a brutal death, motivated by prejudice and intolerance against who is different, all you have to say is to mention a matter of grammatical correction ?! It is, as the ancients said, the world is lost even ...

The comment does not represent the opinion of the newspaper; The responsibility belongs to the author of the message

[Answer](#)

Lorenzo Frigerio (10/03/2017 20h03) há 10 dias 1 0 [Denunciar](#) COMPARTILHAR



(Alexandre Matone) Pior que "travesti espancada" é "travesti furtada" (em português correto: travesti que sofreu furto). São as novas regras gramaticais "democráticas" disseminadas pelos famosos estagiários da FSP. Chama a atenção que os jornalistas efetivos não baixaram diretivas contra esses barbarismos, que correm soltos neste site. Que fim será que levou o "Manual de Redação da Folha"? Nunca mais ouvi falar nele.

O comentário não representa a opinião do jornal; a responsabilidade é do autor da mensagem

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Herbert Luiz Braga Ferreira (12/03/2017 15h13) há 8 dias 0 0 [Denunciar](#) COMPARTILHAR



What you can not understand, my dear, is that the brutality of the crime, the reasons, or rather the unreason for it, deserve a far more pertinent and indignant comment than a mere matter of grammatical correction ...

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